

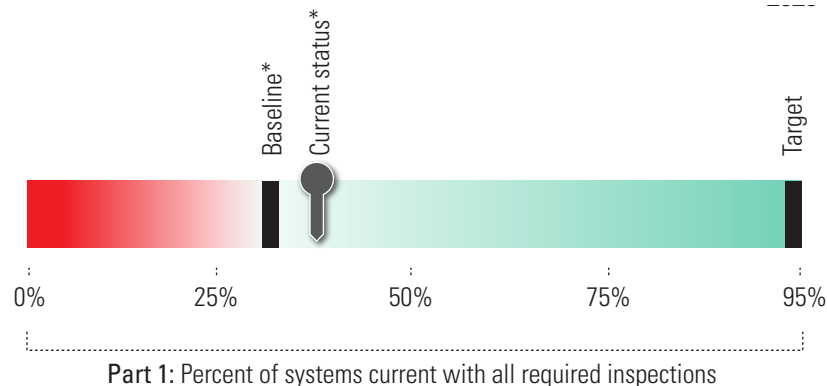
On-site Sewage Systems

Inventory, inspection, and repair of on-site sewage systems

Progress Toward the 2020 Target

Part 1: Inventory all on-site sewage systems in Marine Recovery Areas and other specially designated areas; be current with inspections at 95 percent; and fix all failures.

Part 2: Phase in an expansion of Marine Recovery Areas and other specially designated areas to cover 90 percent of Puget Sound's unsewered marine shorelines.



* The baseline is the percentage of septic systems current with all required inspections in January 2011. The status is the percentage in January 2013.



Is There Progress Toward the 2020 Target?

Progress toward the 2020 target is mixed. Although there have been advances in inventorying and inspecting on-site sewage systems (Part 1), no data are available to assess progress on fixing failures (also Part 1) and expanding the program (Part 2).

On-site Sewage Inventory, Inspection, and Repair

Progress on inventorying and inspecting septic systems is notable. The analysis of progress on fixing failures of on-site sewage systems is pending due to lack of data.

Since 2011, the baseline year, the 12 Puget Sound local health jurisdictions (LHJs) have inventoried 8,000 additional septic systems. This work resulted in

an inventory of nearly 61,000 septic systems. The overall percentage of documented systems rose from 86 percent to 92 percent in the designated areas.

The percent of septic systems current with inspections ranged from 33 percent to 38 percent between 2011 and 2013 and is slightly higher at last count relative to the baseline reference. However, we are still far from reaching the 2020 target. Working with homeowners to ensure and track ongoing regular inspections is challenging and costly. The target of inspecting 95 percent of on-site sewage systems is a stretch goal. The inspection rate provides a baseline against which future progress will be gauged. State and federal funds have provided added resources for this work on the 2020 target.

The third measure of this target is to fix all failures in the designated areas. Washington State Department of Health is working with the LHJs to standardize an approach to track and report system repairs and expects to begin reporting this measure in January 2014.

Program Extension to Unsewered Shoreline

Part 2 of the on-site sewage target has to do with expanding on-site sewage inventories, inspections, and repairs to 90 percent of Puget Sound's unsewered shoreline. DOH and LHJs have asked the Partnership to revisit and reconsider this part of the target due to concerns with its feasibility.

DOH estimates that the existing designated areas cover approximately 450 miles of unsewered Puget Sound shorelines. This represents roughly 20 percent of Puget Sound's unsewered shorelines, only a fraction of the target for 2020 (90 percent).

Number of On-site Sewage Systems Inventoried and Inspected in Designated¹ Areas
Semi Annual Figures 2011-2013

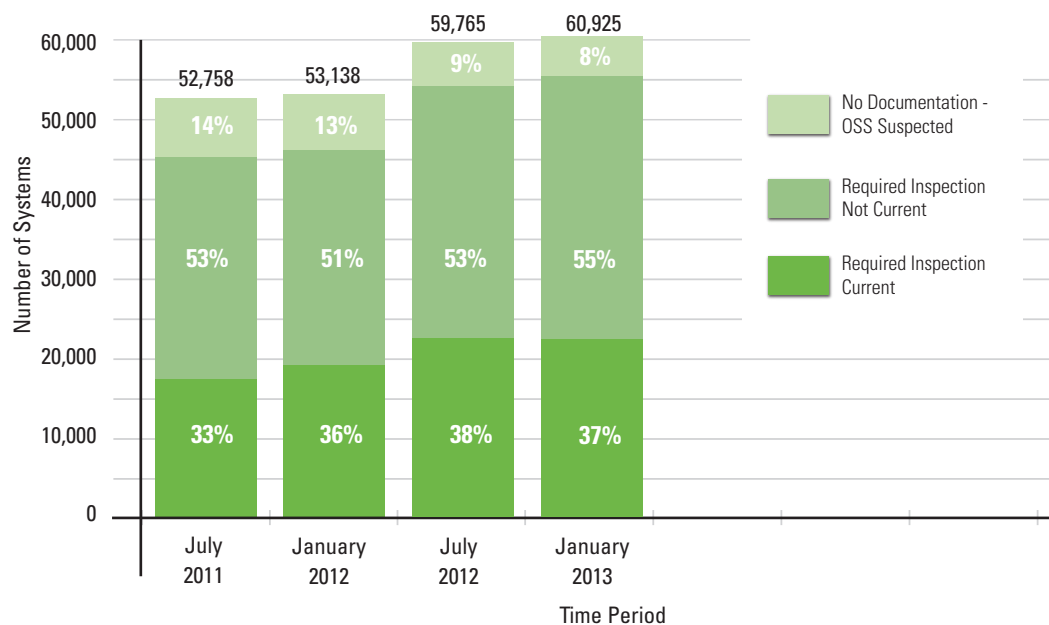


Figure 3.4.

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection

¹ Designated areas include Marine Recovery Areas and other areas with comparable requirements.

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For more in-depth information, please see:

www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/onsite_sewage.php